

REMARKS

- Claims 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 15, 17, 18 and 29-32 were previously cancelled.
- Independent claim 1 has been amended herein.
- Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 13, 14, 16, 19-28 and 33-36 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.
- Claims 9, 13, 14, 16, 19-28 and 34-36 are withdrawn.

The amendments to claim 1 do not present new matter. Reconsideration of the patentability of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the following discussion.

Specification Objections

The specification is objected to because the related applications incorporated by reference should be updated to reflect their current status.

The portion of the specification labeled "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" has been amended to add the status of each referenced application. Accordingly, it is believed that the objection is overcome.

Rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-8 and 33 under 35 U.S.C.

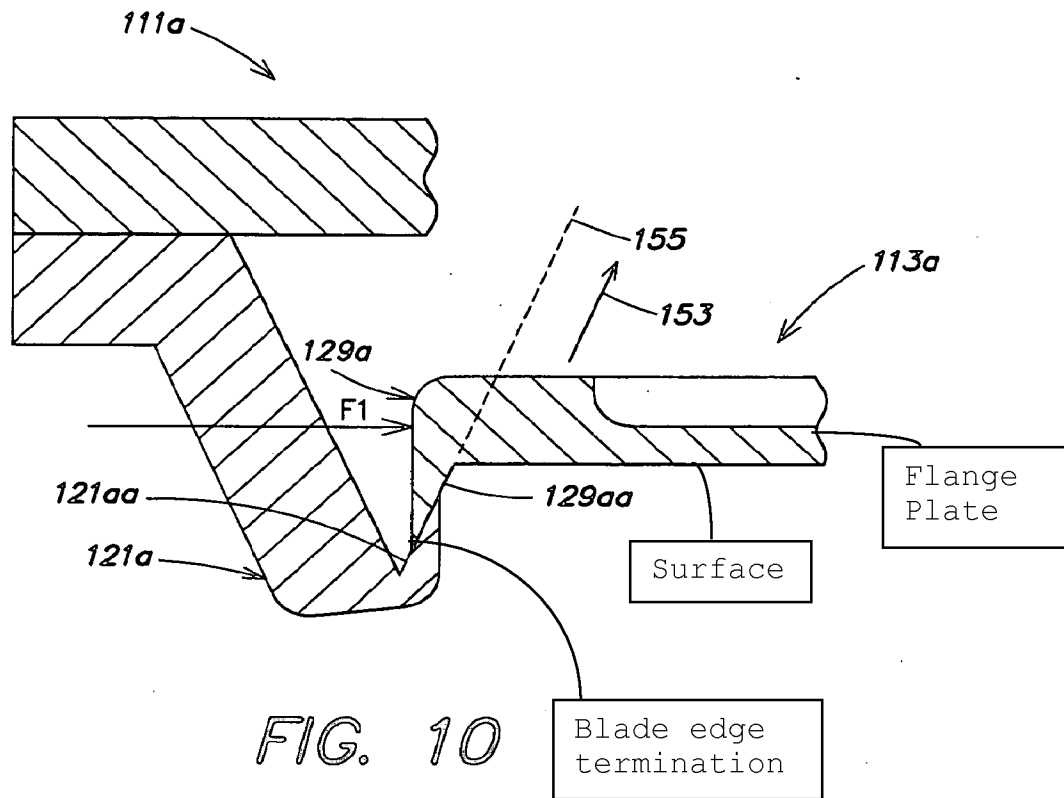
§103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 6-8 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Patterson* (US 6,244,812) in view of *Cable* (US 4,684,285).

Respectfully, the rejection is overcome for the following reasons. Applicants have inserted a limitation in claim 1 wherein additional structure is included. In

particular, claim 1 is amended herein to recite a flange plate adapted to couple to the substrate carrier and wherein the blades of the third side and the fourth side extend down from lower surfaces of the flange plate located adjacent to, and between the blades, and the blades include a blade edge terminating below the lower surfaces.

This structure is best shown in FIG. 10 below.



Cable US 4,684,285 describes a releasable connector, which discloses a tetrahedral wedge including four mutually inclined surfaces, as best shown in Fig. 2 thereof.

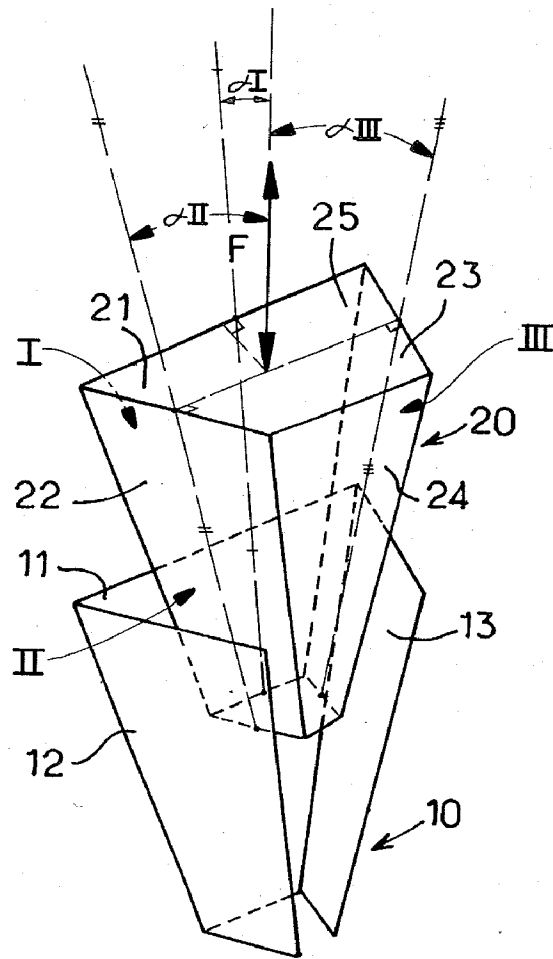
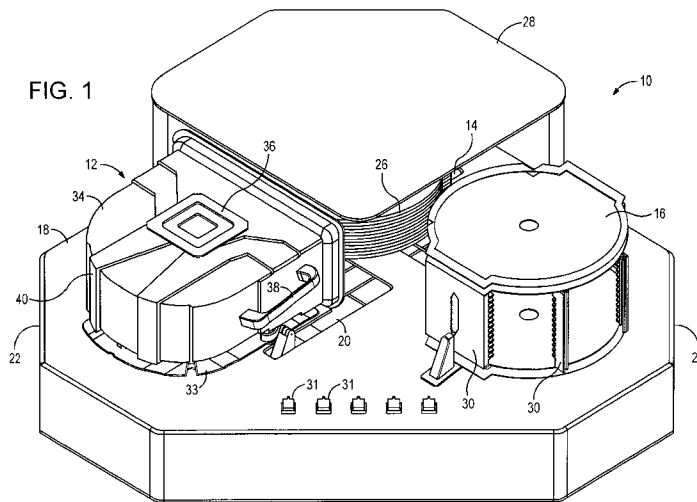


FIG. 2

Patterson 6,244,812 teaches an overhead transfer flange mounted atop a wafer supporting device (FOUP) as best shown in FIG. 1.



Applicants submit the additional clarifying structure in claim 1 clearly distinguishes the combination of Patterson and Cable. In particular, Applicants submit that no such structure of an overhead transfer flange adapted to couple to a substrate carrier body and an overhead carrier support of an overhead transfer conveyor which includes blades of the third side and the fourth side extend down from surfaces of the flange plate located adjacent to, and between the blades, and the blades include a blade edge terminating below the lower surfaces is taught, suggested or otherwise motivated by the combination. This overhead transfer flange structure allows rapid and precise mounting and dismounting of the substrate carrier from an overhead conveyor.

Respectfully then, it is asserted the combination of Patterson and Cable does not arrive at the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants' attorney submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over *Patterson in view of Cable* and that claims 3, 6-8, and 33 which depend therefrom would be patentable for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

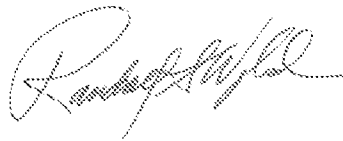
The Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

The Applicants have enclosed herewith a Request for an Extension of Time and an authorization to charge the requisite fees to a credit card number being submitted via EFS-web. The Applicants do not believe any additional Request for Extension of Time is required but if it is, please accept this paragraph as a request for such an Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants do not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any other fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randall S. Wayland".

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